

(Washington, D.C.) Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) applauded the decision by the Small Business Administration (SBA) to expand their e200 Emerging Leaders executive-level training initiative to include Youngstown. The nine-month training includes approximately 100 hours of classroom time per participant and provides the opportunity for small business owners to work with experienced mentors, attend workshops and develop connections with their peers, city leaders, and financial communities.

“The training, mentorship and resources that the SBA will provide here will truly help our local businesses create wealth,” said Congressman Tim Ryan. **“I hope to see similar success this program has brought so many other communities.”**

The e200 Emerging Leaders initiative has helped more than 600 promising small business owners across the country grow their businesses since 2008, and more than half of the businesses that have completed the e200 training have shown an increase in revenue of over \$7 million. Nearly 60 percent have reported creating new jobs in their communities. Surveyed entrepreneurs also reported having secured nearly \$10 million in new financing for their businesses, with an increase in confidence when applying for government contracts. As a result, post-trainees have reported securing nearly 500 federal, state and local contracts, worth more than \$112 million.

Local recruitment for the 2011 training cycle will start in February through SBA district offices and classes are scheduled to begin in April.

For more information about e200 Emerging Leaders, visit www.sba.gov/e200 .

###

